

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel Claims 1-30.

Please add the following Claims 31-46.

Claims 1-30 (canceled)

Claims

31. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 9.

32. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 3.

33. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NO: 1 or SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

34. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1 which is DNA.

35. (New) An antisense molecule comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* wherein the nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 9.

36. (New) Recombinant cells containing an isolated DNA nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein said cells are bacterial or eukaryotic.

37. (New) A recombinant DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida*

*albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

38. (New) A recombinant DNA construct comprising the antisense molecule of Claim 35.

39. (New) A recombinant DNA construct according to claim 37 wherein said recombinant DNA construct is an expression vector.

40. (New) The construct according to claim 39 which comprises an inducible promoter.

41. (New) The construct according to claim 39 which comprises a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.

42. (New) Cells containing a recombinant DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein said cells are bacterial or eukaryotic.

43. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 31 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient or buffer.

44. (New) A method for treating a *Candida albicans*-associated disease comprising the step of: administering a composition of matter comprising an antisense molecule of a *Candida albicans*-originating nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO:9.

45. (New) An oligonucleotide comprising from 10 to 120 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and which nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 9.

46. (New) The oligonucleotide according to claim 45 comprising a fragment of from 10 to 50 contiguous nucleotides.